



August 26, 2009

Mr. Gary Bohnet  
Deputy Minister  
Environment and Natural Resources  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

Dear Mr. Bohnet:

**Information Request - Bathurst Caribou Monitoring Reports**

In preparation for the development and review of a Bathurst Caribou Management Proposal and public hearing on such a proposal, the Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) requires up-to-date information on the status of the Bathurst caribou herd. Over the past several years, staff from your department have made presentations to the WRRB and given verbal and email updates on the various monitoring activities that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) regularly conducts on the Bathurst caribou herd. WRRB has not, however, received written reports that include data analysis, results and interpretation of such activities nor have we received notification that these reports are publicly available.

As such, WRRB formally requests reports, in standard scientific format, on the following monitoring activities conducted by ENR on the Bathurst Caribou herd from 2006 to the present:

- Fall and spring sex and age composition surveys (Calf/cow ratios, adult sex ratios);
- Cow mortality analyses;
- Calving ground delineation surveys (including mapped composition, densities and visual estimates of numbers of caribou and breeding females);

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- Harvest numbers and sex ratio of harvest from Tłıchǫ, other aboriginal groups, residents and non-residents (including a consideration of caribou winter distribution based on the satellite-collared cows from the Bathurst and neighboring herds so as to consider the allocation of harvest between herds ); and,
- reports on any compilation analyses of these data that may have been done by ENR or their consultants, such as simulation modeling to explore possible mechanisms of population decline.

We request these reports be provided to us by September 30<sup>th</sup>. If reports on these items are not available by this date, we request you provide us with an indication as to when they might be forthcoming. In the absence of reports, we request data summaries and their interpretation.

Again, the WRRB views this material as essential for fully understanding, from a scientific perspective, the condition of the Bathurst Caribou herd leading up to today's serious situation. We recognize the amount of work that ENR's biologists are doing. We do, however, stress the need for information to be available for the upcoming public hearing on a Bathurst Caribou Management proposal to be held in November 2009.

If you have any questions on this matter please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Yours truly,



Grant Pryznyk  
Interim Chair

cc. Mr. John B. Zoe  
Acting Tłıchǫ Executive Officer  
Tłıchǫ Government

Ms. Bertha Zoe  
Legal Counsel for Tłıchǫ Government

Ms. Joline Huskey  
Lands Department  
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Mr. Lance Schmidt  
Regional Superintendent, Environment and Natural Resources  
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Ms. Susan Fleck  
Director Wildlife, Environment and Natural Resources  
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